

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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A NEW SPINY RAT FROM LA GUAIRA,  
VENEZUELA.

BY OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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A spiny rat collected at La Guaira, Venezuela, by Messrs. Wirt Robinson and M. W. Lyon, Jr. and submitted to me for determination proves to differ from the previously described species. It may be known as:

***Proechimys guairæ*, sp. n.**

Allied to *P. trinitatis*, but less richly rufous in color.

Size rather less than in *P. trinitatis*. Spines evenly mixed with the dorsal hair, and of about the same prominence on the back; an average spine measures 23 mm. in length by about two-thirds of a millimeter in breadth. General color above much paler than in the allied species, more similar to that of the Ecuadorean *P. decumanus* Thos.; pale rufous heavily lined on the back with the black tips to the spines, laterally clearer but still rufous, the hairs indistinctly annulated with brown. Face greyer than back. Fine hairs of ear black, some longer black hairs at its base anteriorly. Under surface white, pure on the chest and belly, buffy on the throat and along a narrow indistinctly defined line edging the color of the flanks. Upper surface of hands and feet white, indistinctly browner along the outer edge of the metapodials. Tail well haired, black above and white below.

Skull very like that of the smaller mainland form of *P. trinitatis* (*P. urichi* Allen), but more heavily built and without the peculiar slenderness of muzzle that characterizes that animal. Supraorbital ridges heav-

ily developed, but abruptly ceasing at the fronto-parietal suture, the parietal itself being quite smooth. Pterygoid processes broadly spatulate. Palatal foramina large, the posterior ends continued backward as two gutters on to the front of the palate. Bullæ small, their antero-posterior length measured laterally into the angle formed by the paroccipital process, only 9.4 mm.

Dimensions of the type measured in the flesh:

Head and body, 240; tail, 190; hind foot, s. u. 45, c. u. 48.

Skull, greatest length, 56; basilar length, 39.2; zygomatic breadth, 27; nasals, length, 20.4; breadth of muzzle at fronto-premaxillary suture, 10; interorbital breadth, 13.1; breadth on ridges above squamosals, 19.3; interparietal, 8.5 x 13.7; diastema, 12; palate from henselion, 19; palatal foramina, 7.5 x 3.7; length of upper tooth series, 8.7.

*Hab.* La Guaira, Venezuela.

*Type.* Male. U. S. N. M., No. 102,731. Original number 81. Collected 8th July, 1900 by Messrs. Lyon and Robinson. A paratype in British Museum, No. 1.1.5.3, presented by the United States National Museum.

This species is evidently closely allied to *P. trinitatis* and its continental representatives of *P. urichi* and *P. mincæ*. It differs from all three by its much paler color, and from the first and second by its nearly white feet.

From *P. centralis* and allies it is also separated by the absence of parietal ridges, in which respect it approaches the Peruvian *P. simonsi*.

The paratype is rather more brown and less rufous than the type, suggesting a specimen in a rather more youthful state of pelage.